



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Selectmen's Minutes 11-24-2008

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
 Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, November 24, 2008  
 6:00 p.m.

Present: Ms. Rowe, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mrs. Mahon, and Ms. LaCourt.  
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice, and Mrs. Sullivan

**6:00 p.m.**

### Alewife Greenway Project

Ms. Rowe announced that the DCR suspended the hearing on the Greenway Path until next Spring. It was agreed that the Town would like the DCR to listen to the concerns of the residents and would forward the comments and pictures to the Redevelopment Board and the Conservation Commission for comments. Here are the concerns and comments of the residents:

- Want the path constructed on the Somerville side first; it is the highest elevated side and most logical side.
- Major concerns with the CSO overflows on the Arlington side and feels it is not adequately addressed in the plans.
- Polluted river and soil-needs to be cleaned up first along with bank erosion. Why put a nice path around trash filled, polluted river (shopping carts, TV's bikes etc.).
- Dilboy lights and noise still not addressed after construction.
- Plan contains a boardwalk instead of a path from Broadway to Dilboy-want a path.
- Plan makes no sense due to a gas pipe that runs the length of the land.
- River needs to be dredged so water can flow freely, channel maintenance. Rather have clean water than a nice path.
- Plan includes cutting down trees and people are opposed.
- Want significant database analysis from the Mystic River Watershed Association re: sediments that are building up and clogging pipes under Route 2.
- The Bicycle Advisory Committee supports the plan for the Somerville side and thinks it could be a wonderful project, a better link for bike commuters. The path needs to pass by St. Paul's Cemetery/Mass. Ave. to Alewife and needs access along Boulevard Street. Feels the DCR has done a reasonable analysis and will help improve quality of brook environmental impact. It's beneficial to the Town and makes sense to proceed with the project.
- A boat ramp needs to be moved to allow south of Mass. Ave. access to commute via Alewife.
- The project concept (other than the serious CSO and DCR issues) could have a real use on both sides of the brook and offer a safer and nicer area for residents.
- The plan will crowd and impact a very small neighborhood-most Sunnyside residents are against this plan.
- Concern with the way the DCR has handled things already-adding things at every meeting that can't be remembered being even discussed at the meeting. Why hasn't the Commissioner responded to notifications? Concerned because of a total lack of trust in the DCR-need the Town to help residents voice concerns.
- Want to go through with the plan-Somerville side is a better side for a commuter path. Can't wait for perfect water and sediment quality and CSO problems should be separated from this plan process. Hopes the Selectmen will write positive comments to forward this path construction along.
- Town of Arlington should have a plan/contract with the DCR for maintenance. Have a boardwalk or 4' to 6' wide passive walking path on Arlington side and a paved path on the Somerville side (do this paved path first). Use the left over monies from Dilboy construction to correct the noise and light problems-use shades for reflection, angle lights differently.

The Board of Selectmen concerns and comments are:

- Need to clean the brook prior to project starting
- Glad the process has slowed down and that there is a new commissioner to express concerns to.
- If the path is on the Arlington side the plan calls for the Arlington Police to protect the path-there is no money for this.
- A letter should be sent to the DCR, legislators, and Cindy Freidman.
- Use inter-agency meetings that the Governor is initiating-this is a perfect topic for the EPA, MWRA, DCR, MPAA, this would be a positive approach.
- Want the Dilboy problems corrected before start of a new project.
- Want the agreed upon brook clean up by the DCR and Hotel to be completed.
- Want dredging on Arlington side, Somerville side path first, Dilboy corrections, and waterway clean up right away.
- Good plan but could be derailed by other problems and they are two separate issues. The Somerville side path first makes sense and want to move forward on this. Caution to not stop everything just to deal with problems-there should be compromise. Two driving forces to the plan are: health impact and funding.
- Selectmen commit to continue working on this project.

**7:15 p.m.**

**FOR APPROVAL**

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)

- a. Minutes of Meeting: November 10, 2008  
b. Reappointment: Commission on Disabilities

Barbara Cutler  
(term to expire 11/8/2011)

Barbara Jones  
(term to expire 11/8/2011)

- c. Reappointment: Board of Library Trustees

Barbara Muldoon  
(term to expire 12/5/2011)

d. Reappointment: Council on Aging

William Carey  
(term to expire 12/19/2011)

e. Reappointment: Conservation Commission

David White  
(term to expire 12/20/2011)

- f. Reappointment: MAPC Representative

Kevin O'Brien, Director of Planning & Community Development  
(term to expire 8/7/2011)

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

2. Request: Wine & Malt Only Package Store-Alteration of Premise

Robert Thomas, Shanny Beer & Wine, Inc., 94 Summer Street

Mr. Greeley moved approval subject to conditions set forth. SO VOTED (5-0)

Mrs. Mahon requested that Attorney Leone and Town Counsel Rice talk regarding package stores selling lottery tickets and tobacco.

3. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

**TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS**

4. Request: Residential Handicap Parking @ 13 Rawson Road

Emilio & Mary Mignanelli  
(postponed from 11/10/08 meeting)

Mrs. Mahon moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Hurd reminded Ms. Mignanelli that the space is for anyone handicapped.

5. Request: On Street Overnight Parking @ 107 Bow Street

Lisa A. Alves  
Mrs. Mahon moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

6. Request: Proclamation Naming December 12<sup>th</sup> as Marge Johnson Community Service Day

Christine Connolly Sharkey, Director, Health and Human Services

Ms. Sharkey commended Marge Johnson for her 16 plus years of food pantry service.

Marge was a Co-Coordinator for the pantry, raising money and getting volunteers to work at the pantry. Mr. Warren Johnson spoke on behalf of his wife's volunteer service and contributed \$1,000.00 to the Food Pantry in her memory. Mr. Greeley read a proclamation declaring December 12, 2008 as "Marge Johnson Community Service Day". This is a day for community members to reach out in the community to make a difference by organizing food drives for the food pantry, making a donation or volunteering through one of Arlington's many community agencies.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of proclamation. SO VOTED (5-0)

7. Announcement: Grant and Executive Director – Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition

Christine Connolly Sharkey, Director, Health and Human Services

Colleen Leger, Executive Director, AYHSC

Ms. Leger stated that the purpose of the Coalition is to address youth substance problems for the Town. They are in process of developing and implementing a strategy and plan utilizing whole Town support to obtain success with youth substance problems. The grant that was awarded is for \$125,000.00 for 5 years at which time they will reapply to continue the grant work.

8. Discussion: Regionalization and District Analysis

Clarissa Rowe, Chair

Ms. Rowe announced there would be a 10% reduction in local aid from the State. Mr. Sullivan stated that there is also a decrease in sales tax revenues and income tax revenues, so along with the 10% cut in local aid this could impact the Town with a half a million-dollar loss this year. There was discussion to create a sub-committee to research the idea of regionalization in regards to some of the Town services.

Mr. Greeley motioned to create a sub-committee to analyze regionalization and appoint Mr. Hurd and Ms. LaCourt to this sub-committee. SO VOTED (5-0)

9. Discussion: State Aid Task Force Meeting Report

Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Mr. Sullivan covered this information in the prior agenda topic.

10. For Approval: Opening of Warrant 2009

Mr. Hurd motioned to open the warrant on December 1, 2008 and to close the warrant on January 23, 2009. SO VOTED (5-0)

**Correspondence Received**

Stephen Gilligan Request for Support-Proposed Legislation Be Rec'd  
Treasurer & Collector Mass. Parking Clerk Association  
of Taxes

Thomas K. Steel, Jr. Rate Change: Portuguese Language Channel Be Rec'd  
RCN, Vice-President

Jill M. Reddish Rate Changes and Customer Notices Be Rec'd

Verizon, Operations Manager

Marc D. Draisen      Technical Assistance to Cities and Towns      Be Rec'd  
MAPC, Executive Director

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of correspondence received.      SO VOTED (5-0)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Mahon reminded Ms. Rowe that it's time to set up another joint meeting with the School Committee.  
Mrs. Mahon asked Mr. Sullivan to coordinate opening the fence on the bike path at Bow Street.

Mr. Greeley invited everyone to attend the Selectone's sing-a-longs:

- December 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM Senior Center
- December 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM Drake Village
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00PM Winslow Towers.

Ms. Rice discussed a request she received for valet parking rules and regulations. Currently there are none but she will draft some for approval at a future meeting.

### **Executive Session**

Mrs. Mahon requested that the Board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy in respect to collective bargaining where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position.

Mrs. Mahon moved to convene into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. for the above purpose.

Roll Call:

Ms. Rowe: yes  
Mr. Hurd: yes  
Ms. LaCourt: yes  
Mrs. Mahon: yes  
Mr. Greeley: yes

Mr. Greeley moved to adjourn executive session at 9:05 p.m. and reconvene to the Selectmen meeting.

Roll Call:

Ms. Rowe: yes  
Mr. Hurd: yes  
Ms. LaCourt: yes  
Mrs. Mahon: yes  
Mr. Greeley: yes

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:05 p.m.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

A true record: Attest:  
Mary Ann Sullivan

**Next meeting of BOS December 8, 2008**

